

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 05617 071105Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3812

S E C R E T ROME 5617

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 5617 VICE 5717)

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ONLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, IT, US
SUBJ: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR FREDERICO SENSI

1. AMBASSADOR FREDERICO SENSI, RECENTLY RETIRED ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT LEONE, CAME IN TO SEE ME YESTERDAY. AS I THINK YOU ARE AWARE, SENSI NOW REPRESENTS MONTEDISON, AFTER FIAT THE LARGEST PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN ITALY, AND THE RIZZOLI PUBLISHING EMPIRE (CORRIERE DELLA SERA). SENSI IS LEAVING FOR THE U.S. ON APRIL 13 TO SPEND TWO OR THREE WEEKS, PRIMARILY IN SEARCH OF FINANCING FOR RIZZOLI WHO IS HEAVILY IN DEBT AND ALLEGEDLY NEEDS TO RAISE ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS. SENSI UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE IN THE PRIVATE FINANCIAL MARKETS. HE ASKED MY HELP IN SETTING UP MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND LEADING MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY. SENSI REPRESENTS IMPORTANT CONSERVATIVE BUT DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS IN ITALY WHICH DESERVE A HEARING. HE IS CLOSE TO CONGRESSMAN RODINO AND WILL BE SEEING HIM ON THIS TRIP.

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2. I SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF YOU COULD RECEIVE HIM AND COULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH EITHER BRZEZINSKI OR SOME STAFF MEMBER AT THE NSC. ON THE HILL, IN ADDITION TO RODINO, SENATOR JAVITS, PELL AND BROOKE COME TO MIND AS PEOPLE WITH A GOOD KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN ITALIAN AFFAIRS. SENSI IS ALREADY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH DAVID ROCKEFELLER SO I

ASSUME HE WILL MAKE HIS OWN APPOINTMENTS WITH THE NEW YORK FINANCIAL COMMUNITY, BUT HE MAY ASK YOU TO MAKE A PHONE CALL OR TWO ON HIS BEHALF.

3. SENSI IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE IS, HOWEVER, REALISTIC ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE RIZZOLI PUBLICATIONS' POLITICAL OUTLOOK WILL REFLECT THE SOURCE OF FUNDING. FOR THIS REASON, SENSI HOPES TO FIND THE MONEY IN THE U.S. RATHER THAN HAVE RIZZOLI OBTAIN IT FROM SOME HOSTILE SOURCE. THE "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" IS STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE NEWSPAPER IN ITALY AND, IN MY VIEW, IT IS PREFERABLE THAT IT BE FRIENDLY NOT ONLY TO US BUT TO THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY WITH WHOM WE CAN WORK BEST. GIVEN ALL THESE FACTORS, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN HELP SENSI GET THE HEARING HE SEEKS. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

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